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ADVERSE CRITICISM OF THE SOVIET GEOPHYSICS INSTITUTE

The Presidium of the Academy of Sciences USSR noted that the Geophysics Institute has done considerable work, in recent years, on the solution of great scientific problems and has obtained a number of important results. The Institute is successfully developing methods of seismoprospecting and electroprospecting and has created an effective method of deep seismic sounding of the earth's crust. Also, it has developed the fundamentals governing the theory of the origin and evolution of the earth and the planets and is succeeding in working out the theory of weather forecasting, besides developing a number of methods and creating devices for investigations of the atmosphere.

However, Pravda on 12 February 1952 (in the article "An Important Sector of Scientific Operations") correctly indicated that the attainments of the institute could be considerably greater. The directors of the institute have not been able (or do not know how) to secure collective efforts in its operations and the coordinated solution of a number of very important problems, particularly in the forecasting of earthquakes and in long-range weather forecasting, and have paid insufficient attention to the matter of assistance to the great constructions of Communism. The institute is little occupied with generalizing the data accumulated and has still not set out to compile a general monograph clarifying the fundamental attainments in the field of geophysics.

The structure of the institute is one built merely according to methodical principles, which has resulted in the creation of groups of scientific associates weakly bound together, on the basis of the number of persons working on the same problem.

- 1 -

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The institute does not ensure, in sufficient measure, the coordination and direction of scientific research operations in the field of geophysical methods for prospecting useful minerals. Moreover, it has neither established proper contact with the Institute of Geological Sciences, nor induced it to solve the problem of earthquake forecasting, and is not helping it to master geophysical methods used in geological investigations.

In addition, the directorship of the institute has not seriously arrived at an arrangement of cadres, in consequence of which errors in the manning and placement of directing personnel have occurred, especially in expeditions. The proper attention has not been paid to enhancing the qualification of scientific workers.

The presidium has approved of a new structure for the institute and has ordered the institute's director (G. A. Gamburtsev, Corresponding Member Academy of Sciences USSR) to coordinate the work of the sections and laboratories on the basic divisions of subjects.

It is proposed that the directorship of the institute operate and submit for approval by the Bureau of the Department of Physicomathematical Sciences a program of complex investigations on the following problems: earthquake forecasting, long-range weather forecasting, and geophysical methods of prospecting; also, in the course of 1952 - 1954, it is proposed that the institute prepare for publication a monograph on the earth's structure and crust.

The decision of the presidium obligates the directorship of the institute to prepare agreements, with interested ministries, of plans for the creations of soviets on the coordination of field activity concerned with the development of methods for prospecting for useful minerals, to consider the arrangement of cadres in the institute and expeditions, and at the same time to carry out this arrangement in correspondence with a program of complex investigations. Also, the institute is obliged to take resolute measures to ensure the conditions necessary for the scientific and ideopolitical growth of the institute's cadres.

The presidium has proposed that the Bureau of the Department of Physicomathematical Sciences amplify control, in the operation of the institute, over the most important problems and assist it in its work. It is proposed that the Department of Geologicogeographical Sciences take part in the investigations on subjects connected with the development of earthquake forecasting. The Departments of Physicomathematical and Geologicogeographical Sciences must work out a program of joint investigations in the field concerned with methods of earthquake forecasting.

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